

May 17, 2016

An Open Letter from the Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation

Councilmember David Ryu
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring St., Room 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Ryu:

After much review and input from park users, City officials, neighbors, and stakeholders, our Foundation is recommending that the tennis court renovation / basketball court project be cancelled. The renovation/basketball court project was clearly far more divisive than anyone ever imagined, and the range of emotions that have been brought to our attention make further action on this project untenable. The Department of Recreation and Parks and the donor are working on a resolution for a positive outcome for the park since the decision lies with the Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners. Runyon Canyon Park must be maintained as a serene and welcoming place for all visitors and their dogs.

Our Foundation looks forward to additional outreach programs and events aimed at preserving and protecting Runyon Canyon Park. We look forward to working with the park visitors, neighbors, Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council, Council District 4, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and our community partners.

During the park closure, much has been learned and we have also seen excellent examples of park use and management at Bronson Canyon and Griffith Park providing healthy, safe park visit experiences. The only goal of Friends of Runyon Canyon has been to bring more public and private resources to the park to improve and protect the 137 acre area. This work is a benefit to the park users and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation
7119 W. Sunset Blvd., #336, Los Angeles, CA 90046



We have also been notified that other "Runyon Canyon" groups have been started during the park closure, and have been soliciting donations from neighbors and park users. Please know that we are not affiliated with these groups nor do we have knowledge of the individuals that are soliciting funds for park improvements or how those funds are used.

We look forward to the park re-opening date in early summer. We have identified improvement goals including trail maintenance, protecting the soil from erosion, solving sanitation issues and keeping the natural wilderness areas from development.

With our continued thanks and appreciation.

Board of Directors
Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation

cc:

Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners
Recreation and Parks General Manager Michael Shull
Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council